

## The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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**and Joe Bert**



### Club Mailing Address

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Auction: Glenn Sanders  
Bids Recorder, David Chism

Volume 21, Number 1

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January, 2021

**Our next Meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM, early arrivals, at 6:00.  
Due to Covid-19, the wearing of face masks should no longer be optional but mandatory!**

## Collecting Coins of Quality Needn't be Uncirculated

### 2021 Club Meeting Calendar

Jan. 21	May 20	Sep. 16
Feb. 18	June 17	Oct. 21
Mar. 18	July 15	Nov. 18
Apr. 15	Aug. 19	Dec. 16

### A dotted 18.11 Cap Bust half-dollar



**An 18.11/10 Capped Bust half-dollar, O-101 graded XF-45**  
[Enlarge page to 500% to view details of coin.]

Back in 2003, the author received an auction catalogue over the internet that was strictly devoted to the Lettered Edge Capped Bust half-dollar series (1807-1836). During that period in his collecting, he was focused on assembling not only a date set of the popular coin type but the over-dates of which there were many; along with the popular anomalies some of the die varieties exhibited that were unusual. One of these turned out to be an example of the 1811/10 over-date that had a very noticeable dot between the 18 and 11 in the date, with the last two numbers punched over a very faint 10.

Once the silver dollar had been suspended in 1804, the half-dollar became our largest silver denomination and with the exception of 1807, 1815 and 1820, all the other dates from 1808 on were struck in the millions, with a total of 1,203,644 for the coin shown above. The mintages kept rising to 6.5 million for the 1836, the final date of the lettered edge half-dollar series.

Upon reviewing the entire auction offerings, the author came across the coin pictured above and after checking its value in several current numismatic sources, decided to bid on the coin that he thought would represent a winning bid. While the coin proved to be lightly cleaned at one time, it was very attractive, well detailed and definitely affordable.

### Collecting Early US Coins at Coin Club Meetings

By Arno Safran



**An 1803 Draped Bust dollar, BB-6, R2 graded VF-30 by NGC**  
[Enlarge page to fill the screen or 150% to view details of coin.]

Back during the late 1970's thru about mid-1990's, one could still acquire an early US silver dollar like the 1803 Draped Bust/Heraldic eagle one shown above graded VF-30 at a local coin club meeting. If one lived in a city or a suburb, and depending on the size of the club, several dealers would actually set up behind tables on either or both sides of the room while the members would sit in folding chairs facing the front where the Executive Board were seated. So, upon arriving at the meeting-hall an hour before the meeting was called to order, members could wander about looking over the various numismatic offerings the dealers brought in as if attending a small show. Regrettably, that custom appears to have vanished.

Our early US coins were never cheap, but some with larger mintages were still attainable to club members in the low to mid grades even on a teacher's salary. The 1803 dollar had a reported mintage of just 85,634 and was one such find but there were lots more.



**An 1811/9 Capped Bust dime JR-R3, graded VF-25 by PCGS**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or 150% to view details of coin.]

The 1811/9 was the second of John Reich's Capped Bust Capped Bust Dime series and with a mintage of only 65,180 it is worth over \$1,000 today but back in 1988; it cost only \$150 from a dealer set up at the Ocean County Coin Club located in Brick County, NJ.

## Collecting Early US Coins at Coin Club Meetings

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



**1810 Classic Head Large Cent, S-283, R2 graded VF-20**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or to 150% to view details of coin.]

The 1810 large cent had a reported mintage of 1,448,500, the most of the Classic Head series and the specimen shown above has a nice chocolatey color and enough detail to pass as an attractive specimen. It was acquired back in 1989 from a legendary dealer named Dave Wilson who regularly set up at the meetings of the Watchung Hills Coin Club in north central New Jersey and cost of just \$235. Today, both the *Red Book* and *PCGS' COINFACT* list the value at \$1,000 grading VF-20.

The Classic Head series had a short run of just seven years, (1808 thru 1814) with just 19 die varieties but finding nice examples has always been a challenge for collectors because of the renewal of hostilities between the British and the U.S. which led to the War of 1812. Since we received our copper planchets for the coinage of half-cents and large cents from England during this period, shipping slowed to a crawl while the planchets that were housed in wooden crates inside the hulls of ships--overtime--became corroded, porous or darkish, sometimes all three! So, finding attractive chocolatey brown specimens of Classic Head cents can be a real challenge.



**An 1828 Classic Head Half-Cent C-1m R3 certified MS-61 by NGC**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or to 150% to view details of coin.]

The 1828 Classic Head half cent had a reported mintage of 606,000 with three die varieties but is best known for Variety 2 because the engraver struck only 12 stars on the obverse instead of the standard 13 representing the thirteen colonies. As a result, it is more in demand than either of the two varieties which contain 13 stars. Despite the popularity of Var.2, it is the first variety that surfaces the least often because it is scarcest of the three varieties, so when our numismatic colleague and friend, Jim Barry showed it to the author at the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club meeting back in 2003, held at the Aiken, SC library, the author--who had been looking for that coin for a number of years--asked Jim what we wanted for the piece and he bought right then and there; thus obtaining another example of an interesting coin at a coin club meeting. The variety is recognized on the reverse side of the coin by the two top-most leaves on the wreath being further back under the second S in UNITED STATES.



**An 1830 Capped Bust half-disme, V-4, R6 graded AU-55 by NGC**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or to 150% to view details of coin.]

After a suspension of 24 years, the tiny silver half-disme denomination was resumed in 1829 with John Reich's Capped Bust design modified by our second Chief Engraver William Kneass. It was coined thru 1837 with over one million coins struck annually except in 1832 and 1837. As a result, all the Classic Head half-dismes are considered common dates and affordable through AU-58.

It was at the Ocean County Club meeting held in Brick Twp. NJ back in December, 1988 that the author acquired the attractive 1830 Capped Bust half-disme shown above. The dealer was asking \$125 which was a reasonable price at the time. The date has since more than doubled in value to \$300 due to the eye appeal of the specimen.



**An 1872 2¢ piece graded XF-45 by PCGS**

During and after the Civil War, our silver coinage practically vanished from circulation, so Congress began authorizing fractional currency--small-size banknotes valued from five cents to fifty cents--along with base metal copper coinage in denominations of 1¢ and 2¢ and copper-nickel coins in 3¢ and 5¢ cent denominations, the last being our first nickels.

The two cent copper denomination was the first US coin to bare the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** appearing atop the ribbon on the obverse. The coin was struck from 1864 thru 1872 as business strikes and one last time in 1873 as proofs. Most of the dates are common and inexpensive but the 1872--with a mintage of just 65,000--is scarce and considered the key date of the short-lived series. The coin shown above was not acquired at a local coin club but at a small monthly commercial show in Mount Holly, NJ on Jan, 1989 at a cost of \$165. Years later, it was sent out for certification and was graded XF-45 by NGC. Today, its value has increased to over \$1,000 according to the 2021 *Red Book*.



**An 1873 3¢ nickel piece with the open 3 graded MS-66 by NGC**

In 1865, the three-cent copper-nickel piece which was the size of the dime, **17.9 mm in diameter** was introduced. The coin was struck consecutively for 25 years, although only as proofs in 1877 and '78. In 1873, after 390,000 copper-nickel three-cent pieces were struck with a **closed 3**, which looked more like an 8, and later in the year, 783,000 with an **open 3**; yet the numbers of coins that survive are about the same. The author acquired the **Open 3** version "raw" at the Ocean County Coin Club from the same Dave Wilson who also set up there. Dave--who tended to grade coins more stringently--graded it only MS-63, but when the author sent it out for circulation in 2013, it was certified **MS-66 by NGC**, increasing its value considerably.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)





**An 1871 Shield nickel graded AU-58 by NGC**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or to 150% to view details of coin.]

Another example of the post Civil War coin series is the Shield nickel. It was released in 1866 with a mintage of 14,742,500 displaying a Shield on the obverse and rays on the reverse which were removed halfway thru 1867. The motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** appears in small letters atop the obverse. The coin type was struck from 1866 thru 1883, although like the 3¢ nickels, they were struck only as proofs in 1877 and '78.

At a meeting of the Watchung Hills Coin club back in October, 1988, a dealer who occasionally set-up there had a borderline uncirculated 1871 Shield nickel which was one of the lower mintage early dates of the series. Since he was asking only \$100 for it, the writer thought it to be a “good buy” and later had it certified by NGC where it was graded AU-58 just about the grade the dealer judged it to be. Today, it is valued at \$600 according to PCGS’ *COINFACT*. Back then, a coin graded AU-58 looked similar to an MS-63 with a tiny bit of “rub” while examples certified AU-58 today appear closer to an AU-53, sometimes scruffy, so all in all, it was a good investment.



**An 1819 Large Size Capped Bust quarter, B-1, R5 certified VF-20**

This is another example of a coin that was not acquired at local area coin club but a major show instead, but due to its rarity, it is worth mentioning. Unlike the Lettered Edge Capped Bust half-dollars that were struck in the multi-millions for 27 out of the 29 years the coin was actually produced, the large size Capped Bust quarter were coined sporadically from 1815 thru 1828 with none coined in 1816, 1817, or 1826. The mintage for the 1815 was 89,235 but many were saved as a first year issue. The highest mintage for the denomination was in 1818 with a reported 361,174 released while the lowest was the extremely rare 1823/2 with just 1,818 actually struck with that date according to Steve Tompkins, author of *Early United States Quarters* (1796-1838). Other scarce to rare dates are the 1824/2 with an estimated 18,000 struck. The 1820, 21 and '22, also the 1825 and '28 are all considered more common and then there's the 1827 which Steve Tompkins regards as proof-like experimental piece made by Christian Gobrecht and later restrikes but as a date, never really coined for circulation.

So the 1819, B-1, Lg. 9 in date—while not as popular a rarity as it should be—is nonetheless a scarce variety issue of a still collectible date that's not all that expensive despite its rarity as a variety.



**An 1836 Reeded Edge Half-dollar graded XF-45**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or to 150% to view details of coin.]

Due to the geographical small size of the State of New Jersey, where the writer lived before retiring in the south, it was possible for collectors to attend a number of local coin clubs scattered across the state and one of these was the Hunterdon County Coin Club in central western NJ. One of the dealers who would attend the meetings was an insurance salesman but a sound numismatist who had a lot of interesting items and some rare coins in his inventory. At one meeting held in February of 1992, he showed the author an 1836 Reeded Edge half-dollar that was graded XF-45 and with a reported mintage of just 1,200, the author knew it was going to be expensive.

In that same year, over 6 million Letter-Edge Capped Bust halves had been produced at the Philadelphia Mint., the most in any single year since 1807, the year the series began. With the arrival of the new Steam Press, Mint engraver Christian Gobrecht altered the design slightly, removed the motto *E PLURIBUS UNUM* from the reverse and reduced the diameter of the coin from 32.5 mm to an even 30. According to mint records, only 1,200 of the new moderated design were struck but most numismatic scholars believe as many as 5,000 were made. When the author bought the coin, it cost \$1,700 for an XF-45 example; admittedly, quite expensive. Today, its retail value is \$4,000 with most selling at between \$3,500 and \$4,200 according to PCGS’ *COINFACT*.



**An 1863 Liberty Seated dollar graded AU-50 by ICG**  
[Enlarge page to full screen or to 150% to view details of coin.]

Last but not least is this incredible find; an 1863 Liberty Seated dollar graded AU-50. It had a small mintage of just 27,200 pieces but it did circulate. The author found this coin at small coin shop in Cranford, NJ back in March of 1987 and the dealer's price was \$450 which may seem like a lot of money to some but this was one that turned out to be a huge investment. The coin was certified many years later in 2013 and it came back in a AU-50 holder. Today that same coin is considered a quite scarce and worth \$2,600 with examples graded the same, selling at auction for as high as \$2,800. It would be exciting to find similar coins at our local meetings as we do have a few dealers as members. Perhaps we should give it a try!

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**December 17, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Howard Black. We had 26 members present.

**Secretary's Report:**

There were no meetings in March, April and May but the minutes of the June, thru Nov. 2020 appear in each monthly newsletter that followed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email by Stacey Plooster. We have \$16480.19 deposited in the checking account.

**Prize Winners:**

Due to the year-end Christmas spirit, outgoing club president, Steven Nix raffled off **.999 fine Christmas silver bars** extending the number of winners from two to four. The four winners were John Mason, Larry Lucree, Dot Cunningham and Isabella Smith. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Burles Johnson (\$55.00.) Congratulations, winners, all!

**Fall Coin Show:** (Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20 & 21st, 2020; David Chism - Bourse Chairman.

David reported that 70 tables were sold, a sell-out. We also had a **food truck (Chicken Fingers)** set up in the front parking lot; a **hand sanitizer** at each dealers' table and practice social distancing per Columbia County requirements due to the Pandemic. Steve reports our Fall Show made a \$1000 profit. We had 313 people attend our show. The club owes David Chism our appreciation for all the time he has devoted to making our two coin shows a year successful.

**Show & Tells:**

There were no Show and Tells

**The Program:**

No Program was given!  
Coin Token 2020 Augusta Coin Club:

**The 2020 Club Medallion:**



The 2020 Augusta Coin Club Medallion struck in Antique Bronze  
[Enlarge the page to fit the monitor screen to view more clearly!]

The Railroad Bridge over the Savannah River at 6<sup>th</sup> Street was the winner of our 2020 Augusta Medallion.

The medallion was struck on three different alloys, antique copper, antique bronze and silver-plate. The cost to members is \$12.00 each. Only 75 medallions were struck.

**Old Business:**

2021 Club dues \$15.00 per year are past due.

**New Business:**

The Augusta Coin Club will poll their board meeting each month to review how our meetings will be held on a monthly basis. Perfect attendance allowed for 2020 has been suspended. We will have a Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Sunrise Grill.

**Election of 2021 Club Officers and Board of Directors**

Outgoing 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and club auctioneer, Glenn Sanders took nominations for the 2021 year for officers of the Augusta Coin Club annual Election of Officers that was held at our December meeting. The club thanks Glenn for his many contributions both as 1<sup>st</sup> VP and auctioneer over the many years he has served in those capacities.

Since there were no other nominees, Secretary John Attaway casted one vote for the entire slate of officers.

The following were elected for office for the 2021 year:

**President---Shelby Plooster**

**1st Vice President---Burles Johnson**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President---Tommy Rhoden**

**Secretary--- John Attaway**

**Treasurer--- Stacy Plooster**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sgt in Arms--- Joe Bert**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt in Arms--- Bryan Hoyt**

**Board of Directors--- Arno Safran, Newsletter Editor**

**Bourse Chairman--- David Chism, Show Chairman**

**Board of Directors--- Larry Lucree**

**Board of Directors--- Bill Orne**

**Upcoming Shows:**

The Fun Show scheduled for January, 2021 in Orlando, FL. was cancelled due to concerns regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Atlanta third Sunday show **will be held** in Marietta on January 10, 2021.

**Monthly Coin Auction:**

Burles Johnson ran the auction (14 lots). John Mason and Glenn Sanders delivered the goods as the auction was in progress, thereby speeding the auction up. Our Bids recorder was Tommy Rhoden.

*Respectively Submitted,  
John Thomas Attaway*

[The editor wishes to thank Secretary John Attaway and his wife Elaine for providing him with the minutes over the past several years.]



## Minutes from the Jan. 14, 2021 Annual Board Meeting

Since the club resumed having indoor meetings in June, 2020 our attendance per meeting has ranged between 25 and 33 member attendees including guests.

### 2021 Augusta Coin Upcoming Shows Schedule:

Dates: are May 14 and 15 and November 19 and 20. Bourse Chairman, David Chism--who is recovering from his knee operation--. Dave reported that so far, there have been 38 tables sold for the spring, 2021 Show and dates have already been locked in for the November 18 and 19 and the spring show for 2022 as well! Steven Nix will continue to assist David at future shows. The Board voted to have box dinners at the meeting following each show which would fall in June and December.

### 2021 Coin Club Medallion:

Steven Nix will present a PowerPoint Program at one of our upcoming meetings. The program will display a series of scenes and sites of Augusta and the Central Savannah River Area for the members to consider, then vote on after reviewing them. The winning choice will appear on our 2021 Medallion which represent our 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive club medallion first struck in 2005..

### Donations:

The Board also voted to donate \$300 each to the Columbia and Richmond County Library.

The Board also voted to give a \$500 scholarship to Shelby Plooster for the 2021 year.

### Programs:

The Board voted to present a 1/10 of an ounce gold coin to be presented to one of the members who present a program during the 2021 year somewhat similar to the attendance drawings web hold at the beginning of each meeting. Every time a member presents a program, the club will add an extra chance to win. Example of the prize: three programs equal three chances. The Board also voted to have a drawing for people that work the front desk or help at our coin shows, prize to be worked out.

### Meetings via Zoom

Incoming president, Shelby Plooster is going to try to arrange for us to have virtual meetings via a cyber system called "ZOOM" until Covid-19 is no longer a threat. Since April, 2020, all meetings by the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken, SC have been meeting via this system which allows members to sit in front of their computer from their own home and take part in club meetings visually with each other. This way, everybody can see the meetings and do a program from anywhere,

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*John Attaway,  
Recording Secretary*

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